



US Army Corps Of Engineers

Norfolk District

News Release

Contact: Gerald Rogers or Diana Bailey
Phone: (757) 441-7606/7673
Gerald.rogers@usace.army.mil

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
July 30, 2003
#03-11

Colonel Prettyman-Beck assumes command of Norfolk District

NORFOLK, Va. – Colonel Yvonne J. Prettyman-Beck becomes the 54th commander of the Norfolk District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, during a Change of Command ceremony set for 10 a.m., Aug. 4, on the grounds of the Norfolk District headquarters at 803 Front Street.

Colonel Prettyman-Beck, whose most recent assignment was as Operations Officer in the Joint Operations Directorate, the Joint Staff, The Pentagon, Washington, DC, succeeds Col. David L. Hansen, who has commanded the district since July 2001. Hansen leaves to serve as the Assistant Deputy Chief of Staff for Resource Management, U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command, Fort Monroe, Va.

These milestones were achieved under Col. Hansen's leadership:

- Construction began on the replacement of the Great Bridge Bridge.
- The district began the multi-million dollar military construction project at Langley Air Force Base to house the F/A-22 Raptor jetfighter.
- A study was launched to restore the Lynnhaven River Basin.
- A Project Cooperation Agreement was signed with the Commonwealth of Virginia to deepen to 50 feet the inbound channel of Norfolk Harbor.
- After decades of effort, the district awarded a contract to provide a second access road to Fort Eustis.

- The district began review of the permit application to build the Maersk Marine Terminal in Portsmouth.
- Ongoing district efforts to clean up the Elizabeth River, including announcement of a federal trust fund, resulted in Environmental Protection Agency declaration proclaiming the Elizabeth River restoration effort as a model for the nation.

As Norfolk's newest District Engineer, Col. Prettyman-Beck will oversee the Corps' water resources development and environmental restoration for four river basins in the Commonwealth of Virginia. She will also be responsible for the operation and maintenance of the Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway and the Corps' military design and construction projects for Army, Army Reserve and Air Force installations throughout Virginia.

Colonel Prettyman-Beck, a 24-year Army veteran, first distinguished herself in 1979 as a member of the first class of 40 female cadets to graduate from the New Mexico Military Institute in Roswell, N.M. On Aug. 4, she will become the first African American female in the nation to serve as a Corps district commander.

"This opportunity is truly a blessing, and it is with great honor and pride that I accept the responsibility to lead and manage this outstanding organization," said Prettyman-Beck. "The Norfolk Engineer District has a magnificent reputation for providing top of the line service and commitment to our Nation, the U.S. Army, and throughout the state of Virginia. As Norfolk's District Engineer and newest team member, I look forward to building upon this dedicated relationship as we all continue to seek synergy in producing our best economic, environmental and social solutions throughout our communities and our Nation."

The Corps' North Atlantic Division Commander, Brig. Gen. Merdith W.B. Temple, will preside over the ceremony. Guests include Congressman J. Randy Forbes (R-4th Dist.); the Honorable Yvonne B. Miller, Virginia State Senate; the Honorable D. Nick Rerras, Virginia State Senate; the Honorable Frank Wagner, Virginia State Senate; Mayor Paul D. Fraim, Norfolk; Mayor Meyera Oberndorf, Virginia Beach; Mayor William E. Ward, Chesapeake; Mayor E. Dana Dickens III, Suffolk; Mayor Rosalyn

Dance, Petersburg; Mayor Edward Parks, Tangier; representatives of the Elizabeth River Project; and Charles Brinley of the Hampton Roads Maritime Association.

Editor's note: Digital photos of Col. Hansen and Col. Prettyman-Beck available by email:

gerald.rogers@usace.army.mil; or by calling Gerald Rogers at 757-441-7606.

#